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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the just concluded general debate of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, Nauru, Gambia and a very small number of other countries, at the instigation of the Taiwanese authorities, once again agitated to raise the putative question of "Taiwan's membership in the United Nations". They took advantage of the hallowed forum of the United Nations to engage in activities aimed at dividing China, thus grossly interfering in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government and people condemn and firmly oppose this action. I would like to state our position on this issue as follows.

1. There is only one China in the world. From time immemorial Taiwan has been an integral part of China's territory. The "one China" principle is widely recognized by the United Nations and the vast majority of its Member States. Although China is not yet reunited, the fact that both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same China has never changed. China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division.

As long ago as 1971, by its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly resolved once and for all the issue of China's representation at the United Nations from political, legal and procedural standpoints. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. As a region of China, Taiwan is not entitled to United Nations membership under any name whatsoever. Now the General Committee and the plenary Assembly at its sixty-second session have once again rejected, by an overwhelming majority, inclusion of the putative issue of "Taiwan's membership in the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly. This fully reflects the position of the United Nations and a great many of its Member States in adhering to the "one China" principle, upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and abiding by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Any attempt to deny historical facts and distort resolution 2758 (XXVI) is doomed to failure.

2. Our 23 million compatriots in Taiwan form part of the Chinese population of 1.3 billion and Taiwan belongs to the entire Chinese people. No one in the entire world is more concerned than the Chinese Government and people about

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the future prospects and the interests of our 23 million compatriots in Taiwan. The Chinese Government has unswervingly adhered to the fundamental principle of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", and has committed itself to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, delivering benefits to compatriots on both sides of the Straits and striving for the prospect of peaceful reunification. We have taken a number of important steps to promote cross-Strait contacts and cooperation and to advance the peaceful and steady development of cross-Strait relations. These have been welcomed by our compatriots on the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and earned the approbation of the international community. As the evidence abundantly demonstrates, it is the shared and heartfelt aspiration of the compatriots on either side for there to be mutual respect and reciprocal benefit across the Straits, as well as strengthened people-to-people contacts and cooperation, in economic and trade matters and other areas, and for the two sides to work together to safeguard peace and stability in the Straits and to build a radiant future of peace, stability, development and prosperity.

That said, however, the Taiwanese authorities, in pursuit of their own selfish political interests and in blithe disregard of the opposition from compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits and from the international community, have obdurately stuck to the path of "independence for Taiwan" and deliberately engineered cross-Strait confrontation. They have undermined peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, stepped up their separatist activities in pursuit of "independence for Taiwan", and attempted to seek the "de jure independence of Taiwan" through "constitutional reform" and a "referendum on Taiwan's membership in the United Nations". On repeated occasions, the Taiwanese authorities have also induced a small handful of countries to engage in the subterfuge of sending letters to the United Nations and start clamouring for Taiwan's putative membership in the United Nations, in a blatant provocation aimed at "independence for Taiwan". The separatist advocates of "independence for Taiwan" and their reckless activities, if not curbed in time, will bring cross-Strait relations to the brink of collapse, seriously undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and gravely imperil peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, the Asia-Pacific region and even the world at large. China resolutely opposes separatist activities of any form aimed at "independence for Taiwan" and will never countenance the separation of Taiwan from China by anyone in any guise.

3. It is the shared desire and firm resolve of the 1.3 billion-strong population of China, including our compatriots in Taiwan, to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to attain its full reunification at the earliest juncture. This resolve cannot be shaken or thwarted by any person or any force. The question of Taiwan is a purely internal matter for China and can only be resolved by the Chinese people themselves, on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. Any issue of principle concerning China's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be settled by the entire Chinese people. We strongly urge Nauru, Gambia and those few other countries to abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), to align themselves with the great majority of Member States on the Taiwan question, and to refrain from pursuing their own selfish interests and seeking temporary gain by letting themselves be exploited by separatist forces advocating "independence for Taiwan".

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under item 120 of the agenda.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
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Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to
the United Nations